

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 33 (Cancelled)

34.(Original) Apparatus for ray tracing through a medium having multiple variations in refractive index including:

21 a computer employing an analytically determined path of a ray through the multiplicity of locations in the medium, for a plurality of rays impinging thereon in different directions, by utilizing known local variation of the refractive index at a multiplicity of locations in the medium.

35.(Currently amended) A method of ray tracing through a medium having multiple variations in refractive index including:

determining local variation of the refractive index at a multiplicity of locations in the medium; and

analytically determining the path of a ray through the multiplicity of locations in the medium, for a plurality of rays impinging thereon in different directions.

Claims 36 and 37 (Cancelled)

38.(New) Apparatus according to claim 34, and wherein said ray tracer determines an aberrated wavefront for said plurality of rays; and also comprising an adaptive optics controller utilizing said aberrated wavefront to control an adaptive optical element in a confocal

microscope, thereby to correct aberrations resulting from the variations in the refractive index.

39. (New) A method according to claim 35, and also comprising the steps of:
determining an aberrated wavefront for said multiplicity of rays; and
utilizing said aberrated wavefront to control an adaptive optical element in a confocal microscope, thereby to correct said aberrations resulting from said local variation of the refractive index.

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40. (New) A method for confocal microscopy comprising the steps of:
providing a confocal microscope having an imaging path between a three-dimensional sample and its output image plane;
determining variations of the refractive index in said three- dimensional sample; and
disposing in said imaging path a three-dimensional medium having properties that correct aberrations resulting from said variations of the refractive index in the three-dimensional sample.

41. (New) Apparatus for confocal microscopy comprising:
an image information acquirer providing information relating to variations in the refractive index in a three-dimensional imaged volume, said apparatus having an imaging path between said three-dimensional imaged volume and said image information acquirer; and
a three-dimensional medium disposed in said imaging path, said three- dimensional medium having properties that correct aberrations resulting from variations of said refractive index in said three-dimensional imaged volume.

Respectfully submitted,

JH Cohen
by [Signature] Reg No. 28,858

JULIAN H. COHEN

C/O LADAS & PARRY

26 WEST 61ST STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

REG. NO. 20302 - 212-708-1887